

CATEGORY SPECIFIC SORT AND DISPLAY
INSTRUCTIONS FOR AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

5 A method and system providing category based sort and display instructions for a computer system having a database of information stored therein. The computer system may be a palm-sized computer system or personal digital assistant (PDA). A database of contact information is maintained in the computer with each record containing information related to a
10 personal contact, e.g., first name, last name, company name, address, phone numbers, email address, etc. Each record can be assigned a custom category type defining the kind of contact that the record is, e.g., business, family, personal, etc. The user is allowed to display a condensed listing of the contacts associated with each category. When the list is displayed, the list can be sorted
15 by a field specific to that category type. Each category type can have its own sorting instructions. The sorting instructions also define the way in which the lists are displayed. The user can define and edit the category based instructions at any time. Therefore, users can sort the display order of their information based on the selected category. By providing an individual sort and
20 display preference for each category, the user is free to optimize the sort order for each particular situation. For instance, business contacts may be sorted by company name, while personal contacts are sorted by last name but family contacts are sorted by first name.